

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 126
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting
February 8, 2007

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Wilma Chan
Jerome Horton
Nancy McFadden

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Vicki Marti
Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair
Diane Griffiths

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

Keith Berger, Executive Director
Tacia Carroll
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Katie Knudson
Marilyn Nishikawa
Steve Soto
Becky Swol
Michael Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Toby Douglas, Department of Health Services
Thomas Williams, Department of Finance

I. Call to Order

The February 8, 2007 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Commissioner Nancy McFadden.

II. Approval of Minutes

The January 25, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, began his report by explaining that CMAC's current meeting schedule extends through June of this year. He said that staff had provided the Commissioners with a draft of proposed Commission meeting dates for next fiscal year, July 2007 - June 2008. He asked the Commissioners to review those dates and let Katie Knudson, CMAC, Executive Administrative Assistant, know of any questions or concerns they may have. He said that staff would do their best to incorporate their preferences and then present them with a final schedule for their review and approval.

Mr. Berger informed the Commissioners that the negotiation process for Round 2B of the supplemental funds is moving forward at a good pace now that the final Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) list has been issued. Given the number of negotiations and the interconnectedness of those discussions, he said he believes the most appropriate target date for action on the recommended amendments is the Commission's March 8 meeting. He said staff would be working diligently with the hospitals to finalize as many as possible by that date.

As an initial administrative reminder, Mr. Berger noted, Form 700, the Statement of Economic Interests, is due to the Fair Political Practices Commission by the end of next month. Copies of the forms are available from the CMAC office. He also noted that staff would be available to assist in the filing process if that would be helpful.

Mr. Berger concluded his report by updating the Commissioners that there were four amendments and contracts before them for review and action in today's closed session, as well as a number of important negotiation updates.

IV. Department of Health Services (CDHS) Report

Toby Douglas, Assistant Deputy Director, Medical Care Services, CDHS, updated the Commissioners on the proof of citizenship provisions of the federal Deficit Reduction Act. He said that CDHS has worked with stakeholders to develop an implementation plan which is both reasonable and responsible, and that CDHS had released a final draft All-County Welfare Director's letter, which will be used to provide counties with the guidance on how to implement these provisions that require all Medi-Cal applicants as well as current beneficiaries to declare not only citizenship but to also provide documentation of citizenship as well as their identity. CDHS plans to meet with stakeholders for comments, and then will work on an outreach plan to provide applicants and beneficiaries with sufficient information on how to meet the requirements.

Mr. Douglas informed CMAC that last week CDHS publicly released the Mercer Report which CDHS contracted with Mercer Consulting to help them to determine new managed care rate methodologies. He noted that one major finding of the report was to ensure individual plan rates address their relative risk, and to look at cost data provided by plans. Mr. Douglas informed CMAC that CDHS would review the Mercer recommendations and will set a timeline for implementation.

Mr. Douglas concluded his report by informing CMAC of a new regulation proposed by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). He said the regulation sets a limit on public provider rates, which concerns CDHS and the public hospitals. The Administration believes that California should have the flexibility to pay providers Medicare's rate, which is above cost. He said CDHS would be looking into it.

Before adjournment, Commissioner McFadden inquired about someone from the Administration giving a brief overview of the Governor's healthcare proposal. Mr. Berger and Mr. Douglas said they would try and have someone come to the next CMAC meeting to present.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Commissioner McFadden recessed the open session. Commissioner McFadden opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Commissioner McFadden announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital and managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.